

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00248 171839Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 IO-13 /101 W
-----172031Z 069148 /43

R 171810Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3743
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, JM
SUBJECT: MORE ATTACKS ON IMF AND DEVALUATION

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0166

1. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED JBC-TV CONTINUED FRIDAY THE 15TH, ON ONE AND A HALF HOURS OF PRIME TIME, THE FOURTH OF A SIMILARLY-HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM OF "INDOCTRINATION." PREVIOUS PROGRAMS HAVE DEALT WITH THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS, AND SACRIFICES IN JAMAICA DURING WORLD WAR II.

2. THIS ONE IN WHICH SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE "MASSES" WERE INTERVIEWED ON THEIR VIEWS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE IMF, AND ESPECIALLY DEVALUATION, MUST HAVE STRUCK A NEW WORLD LOW IN CONTENT, PRESENTATION, AND LITERACY. THE FORMAT INVOLVED LEAD-IN CLIPS OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S SPEECH ON THE ECONOMIC CRISIS FOLLOWED BY MAN-IN-THE-STREET
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INTERVIEWS WITH ASSORTED UNION DELEGATES, YOUTHS, WOMEN, RASTAFARIANS, WORKERS, UNEMPLOYED, FARMERS, ETC., ALL APPARENTLY CHOSEN FOR UNINTELLIGIBILITY, LOW EDUCATIONAL LEVEL, GULLIBILITY, AND UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION TO CAPITALISM, IMPERIALISM, THE US, THE IMF, LAND-OWNERS, THE RICH, AND, ABOVE ALL, DEVALUATION AS A WESTERN PLOT AGAINST THE POOR. A RECURRENT THEME WAS

THE NECESSITY FOR THE "MASSES" TO TAKE OVER THE BANKS,
INSURANCE COMPANIES, FACTORIES, AND ALL LAND.

3. THE TIME ACCORDED TO THIS SERIES OF INCREDIBLY SIMPLISTIC
REPETITIONS OF ROTE JINGOISTIC LEFTIST CATCH PHRASES
FORCES ONE TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS A WELL-REHEARSED
PORTION OF THE INITIAL PROPAGANDA PROGRAM OF THE NEW
MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION, CULTURE AND FESTIVALS,
ARNOLD BERTRAM.

4. IF THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE APPROACH TO COMPLEX
SUBJECTS TO BE TAKEN BY THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT, THERE IS
LITTLE HOPE FOR JAMAICA, BUT THE SHATTERING INEPTITUDE
AND TRANSPARENT MANIPULATION OF THE PRESENTATION PRO-
DUCED SUCH A HIGH DEGREE OF SOMNAMBULISM AND BOREDOM
THAT WE ARE LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE TRANSITION TO THE
BRAVE NEW WORLD, WHILE AGONIZINGLY PAINFUL, WILL BE
ALSO SLOW.
GERARD

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Message Attributes

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